

From: Paul Hunter MD, Associate Medical Director, Milwaukee Health Department



To: Clinicians (Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants) and Medical Directors who manage patients residing in the City of Milwaukee

Date: 9/22/11

Re: Temporary recommendations for triaging and testing patients exposed to measles

During the period of time when, in Milwaukee County and surrounding counties, there are cases of measles:

1. If a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee calls about possible exposure to measles then refer that patient to the Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3521) for assessment of risk and contact investigation as needed.

2. If a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee is seeking or receiving medical care for one of the four conditions below, determine whether they have or had any of the other three:

* Fever OR * Rash OR * Conjunctivitis OR * Possible exposure to a measles case.

a. If a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee calls about possible exposure to measles AND has current or recent fever or rash or conjunctivitis, then

1) He or she should be directed to a medical facility with negative pressure rooms. That will usually be a hospital's emergency room.

2) Emergency room staff should be notified of such patients prior to their arrival.

3) The Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3521) should be immediately notified when such patients have been directed to a medical facility.

b. If a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee is already in a medical facility AND then is identified as having possible exposure to measles AND has fever or rash or conjunctivitis

1) He or she should be placed in negative pressure isolation.

2) The Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3521) should be immediately notified.

c. If a clinician suspects measles in a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee who does not meet the criteria above then

1) The patient should be isolated in negative pressure and

2) The clinician should call the Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3521) to discuss the case.

3. If possible clinicians should contact the Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3521) prior to testing a patient residing in the City of Milwaukee for measles.

- a. The health department will need to know the results of the test immediately anyway.
- b. Staff members at the health department are experienced in how to assess risk for measles and can help the clinician assess that risk.
- c. However, do not delay testing if the local health department is not immediately available.
- d. For more recommendations on testing patients residing in the city of Milwaukee see page 4 of the following link:

city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/healthAuthors/DCP/PDFs/Measles2008/Measles_MH D_Concise_Recs_20080417.pdf